1   1.   A method comprising:

2   providing Internet services to a customer through

3   a service provider on behalf of a retail vendor;

4   providing said services through graphical user

5   interfaces provided by said service provider that include

6   content related to products or services of said retail

7   vendor;

8   preventing the customer from accessing said

9   Internet services from said service provider without

10   receiving said content related to products or services of

11   said retail vendor;

12   receiving information about the customer's

13   preferences; and

14   customizing the content provided to the customer

15   based on said information.

1   2.   The method of claim 1 further including obtaining

2   the identity of the customer and customizing the content

3   provided to the customer based on the customer's identity.

1   3.   The method of claim 1 wherein providing said

2   services includes controlling the initial graphical user

3   interface displayed after booting of the system.

1   4.   The method of claim 3 including providing

2 confidential information to said service provider instead

3 of said retail vendor.

1   5.   The method of claim 3 including providing the

2 customer with a predefined set of selections.

1   6.   The method of claim 1 including enabling said

2 service provider to provide remote maintenance for said

3 processor-based system and to control the software and

4 hardware added to said system.

1   7.   The method of claim 1 further including providing

2 advertising based on the customer's preferences.

1   8.   The method of claim 1 including receiving

2 information about the customer's preferences on said

3 processor-based system coupled to said service provider

4 over the Internet, forwarding said customer preferences to

5 said service provider, causing said service provider to

6 customize the content to be provided to the customer based

7 on said information and forwarding said customized content

8 to said processor-based system.

1   9.   The method of claim 1 including automatically

2 directing said customer to a server associated with said

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3   retail vendor when said customer wishes to obtain a product
4   or service offered by said retail vendor.

1   10.   The method of claim 1 including requiring the
2   customer to view at least two graphical user interfaces
3   including advertising related to said retail vendor before
4   accessing said Internet services.

1   11.   An article comprising a medium storing
2   instructions that enable a processor-based system to:
3   provide Internet services to a customer through a
4   service provider on behalf of a retail vendor;
5   provide said services through graphical user
6   interfaces provided by said service provider that include
7   content related to products or services of said retail
8   vendor;
9   prevent the customer from accessing said Internet
10   services from said service provider without receiving said
11   content related to products or services of said retail
12   vendor;
13   receive information about a customer's
14   preferences; and
15   customize the content provided to the customer
16   based on said information.

1   12.   The article of claim 11 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 obtain the identity of the customer and customize the
4 information provided to the customer based on the
5 customer's identity.

1   13.   The article of claim 11 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 control the first and the second graphical user interfaces
4 displayed after booting of said system.

1   14.   The article of claim 13 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 provide confidential information to said service provider
4 instead of said retail vendor.

1   15.   The article of claim 13 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 provide the customer with a predefined set of selections.

1   16.   The article of claim 11 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 enable said service provider to provide remote maintenance
4 for said processor-based system and to control the software
5 and hardware added to said system.

1   17.   The article of claim 11 further storing

2 instructions that enable a processor-based system to

3 provide advertising to said customer based on the

4 customer's preferences.

1   18. The article of claim 11 further storing

2 instructions that enable said processor-based system to

3 receive said customer's preferences, forward said customer

4 preferences over the Internet to said service provider, and

5 receive customized content from said service provider over

6 the Internet.

1   19.   The article of claim 11 further storing

2 instructions that enable a processor-based system to

3 include automatically directing said customer to a server

4 associated with said retail vendor when said customer

5 wishes to obtain a product or service offered by said

6 retail vendor.

1   20.   The article of claim 11 further storing

2 instructions that enable a processor-based system to

3 require the customer to view at least two graphical user

4 interfaces including advertising related to said retail

5 vendor before accessing said Internet services.

1   21. A system comprising:

2   a processor; and

3   a storage coupled to said processor, said storage

4   storing instructions that enable the processor to obtain

5   Internet services through a service provider on behalf of a

6   retail vendor; provide said services through graphical user

7   interfaces provided by said service provider that include

8   content related to products or services of said retail

9   vendor; prevent accessing said Internet services from said

10   service provider without receiving said content related to

11   products or services of said retail vendor; and receive

12   information about preferences and customize the content

13   provided to the system based on said information.

1   22. The system of claim 21 wherein said storage

2   further stores instructions that enable said system to

3   obtain the identity of a customer using the system and

4   customize the information provided to the customer based on

5   the customer's identity.

1   23. The system of claim 21 wherein said storage

2   further stores instructions that enable said system to

3   control the initial graphical user interface displayed

4   after booting said system.

1   24. The system of claim 23 wherein said storage

2 further stores instructions that enable said system to

3 control the initial two graphical user interfaces displayed

4 on said system after booting.

1   25. The system of claim 24 wherein said storage

2 further stores instructions that enable said system to

3 prevent the initial two graphical user interfaces from

4 being changed.

1   26. The system of claim 21 including an interface for

2 coupling said system to a server over the Internet, and

3 said storage further storing instructions that enable said

4 system to receive said preferences, forward said

5 preferences over the Internet to said server and receive

6 customized content from said server over the Internet.

1   27. The system of claim 21 including a unitary

2 housing and a display, said display being mounted in said

3 unitary housing, said unitary housing further storing said

4 processor and said storage.

1   28. A method comprising:

2   providing Internet services to a customer on

3 behalf of a retail vendor through a client processor-based

4 system;

5   providing graphical user interfaces that include

6   content related to products or services of said retail

7   vendor;

8   preventing the customer from accessing said

9   Internet services without receiving said content related to

10   products or services of said retail vendor;

11   receiving information about the customer's

12   preferences from the client processor-based system; and

13   customizing the content provided to the client

14   processor-based system based on said information.

1   29.   The method of claim 28 including providing remote

2   maintenance for said client processor-based system.

1   30.   The method of claim 29 including controlling the

2   software and hardware added to said system remotely.

1   31.   An article comprising a medium storing

2   instructions that enable a server to:

3   provide Internet services to a client on behalf

4   of a retail vendor;

5   provide said services through graphical user

6   interfaces from said server that include content related to

7   products or services of said retail vendor;

8   prevent the client from accessing said Internet

9   services without receiving said content related to products

10   or services of said retail vendor; and

11   enable said server to receive customer preferences

12   from said client and customize content displayed on said

13   client based on said customer preferences.

1   32.   The article of claim 31 further storing

2   instructions that enable the server to provide customized

3   advertising to said client based on preferences received

4   from said client.

1   33.   A server connectable to a client, said server

2   comprising:

3   a processor

4   a storage coupled to said processor;

5   an interface to the Internet; and

6   instructions stored on said storage that enable

7   the server to provide Internet services to the client on

8   behalf of a retail vendor; provide said services through

9   graphical user interfaces from said server that include

10   content related to products or services of said retail

11   vendor; prevent the client from accessing said Internet

12   services without receiving said content related to products

13   or services of said retail vendor; and enable said server

14   to receive customer preferences from said client and

15   customize the content displayed on said client based on

16   said customer preferences.

1   34.   The system of claim 33 wherein customized

2   advertising is provided to said client based on the

3   preferences received from said client.

1   35.   The system of claim 34 including storing in said

2   storage information about the activities undertaken by the

3   customer on said client.